(e) Muzaffarpur-Patna Section (NH-77 & NH-19) is identified for development to four lane standards with private sector participation on 'Built, Operate and Transfer' basis (BOT) under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III.

World Bank Assistance for A.P.

519. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is funding the development of more road and highway projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of projects identified therefor; and

(c) if so, the amount of World Bank aid is likely to be made available for the projects in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. As for National Highways are concerned, no project in Andhra Pradesh is being funded by World Bank at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Launching of operational flights

520. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a proposal has been formulated by the Indian Space Research Organisation for launching of seven operational flights of the Geo-Synchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,325 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the distinctive features of the various flights, the time-frame fixed therefor and the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After successfully completing three flights of Geo-Synchronous

Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), it is now planned to launch a series of 2000 kg class communication satellites in the operational flights of GSLV during the period, 2007-10, to meet the national requirement in the areas of communication, meteorology, education and health. The first flight in this batch (GSLV-F04) is planned during mid 2007.

Satellite linked villages

521. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal that at least 250 villages in the country will have satellite linked village resource centres by March this year, taking the benefits of space technology to the rural people;

(b) if so, the villages identified for this purpose, State-wise;

(c) the funds earmarked for each village, State-wise; and

(d) the number of virtual classrooms functioning in the country as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) It is planned to set up 100 satellite linked village Resource Centres (VRC) in the country, by March this year.

(b) The villages/VRC locations identified for this purpose in different States are:

Andhra Pradesh: Addakal (Mahabubanagar Distt.)

Karnataka: Hanur, Gopishettiyur, Gumballi, B.R. Hills (Chamarajanagra Distt.); Ratkal, Kamlapura (Gulbarga Distt.); Kamasamudram, Thorlakki, Budikote, Dinnhalli, Idaguru (Kolar Distt.); Hunsur, K. R. Nagar, T. Narasipura (Mysore Distt.); Chitrahally, Chickajajur, Malladihalli, Nayakanahatty, Dindavara (Chitradurga Distt.); Pattanayakanahalli (Tumkur Distt.); Ashokanagara (Belgaum Distt.); Hudem (Bellary Distt.); Shreemangala, (Kodagu Distt.); Kohinur (Bidar Distt.); Castle Rock, (Karwar Distt.); Anegundi, (Koppal Distt.); Hirehal (Gadag Distt.); Kannura, (Bijapur Distt.); Mallapura, (Davanagere Distt.); Galagi-Hulukoppa, (Dharwad Distt.); Aralagudu, (Shimoga Distt.); Yemalur (Bangalore Urban Distt.); Adonahalli, Ugganahalli (Bangalore Rural Distt.);

Kerala: Sultan Battery, Manathavady, Meppady, Kalpetta, Noolpuzha